

Mini-Grant Projects

September 2001 – June 2002

Canyon Creek Elementary – Billings

In a continuation with the on-going relationship with the Bureau of Land Management students at Canyon Creek Elementary helped with the development of a Historic Zone at Pompey's Pillar in preparation for the Lewis and Clark Expedition Centennial. They will research the vegetation, wildlife, and people living in the area in 1806 and then create a brochure for dissemination to visitors to the Pillar and other interested community members. While engaged in this project students will meet Montana Content and Performance Standards for Social Studies (1 and 4), Writing (2 and 6) and Technology (3 and 5).

Coordinator: Laura Schillinger

Columbus Middle School

The "Columbus Community Beautification Plan" will involve students at Columbus Middle School through personal tour, and, and calls to members of the community in determining areas of the community in need of landscaping and then prioritized the results. A greenhouse will be planned and constructed for the cultivation of plants. The students will determine which plants are needed for each area. Meetings will be planned and conducted to evaluate progress and the public invited to participate at the meetings. Verbal and written presentations before the advisory councils will be made and a service newsletter published. Montana content standards in Reading, Mathematics, Science, Speaking and Listening, Writing, Art, Library Media, Technology and Workplace Competencies will be addressed during this service-learning project.

Coordinator: Mark Ranstrom

Hillcrest Elementary – Harlowton

In order to serve their community while learning about patriotism and American history students at Hillcrest Elementary will develop their project "Bridges Through Music". They will learn about songs of America's past from their music teacher and by visiting with senior citizens and their families. They will research the songs and give musical performances and historical presentations to classmates, at the nursing home, and at the senior center. Students will also design advertising and programs for their performances and design posters and banners about what they learned. The project goals are to increase students' knowledge of history, music, culture, research methods, art and design and to increase students' listening and communication skills.

Coordinator: Marlene Robertson

Libby Middle School

Through the collaborative efforts of students, staff and the community, a functional picnic area will evolve from an undeveloped piece of forested land. Students use math and engineering skills, science, career and vocational technical education and analytical skills to complete their projects. Using knowledge acquired and analytical skills, students will inspect the area and compile data, draft a proposed plan, including a courtyard and gazebo, and draw final plans using a Cad program. Students will complete the project by constructing the park as designed.

Coordinators: Judy McKay and Kim Kingston

Ophir Elementary – Gallatin Gateway

Students at Ophir Elementary expanded the 2000 service-learning “Elk Project”. Seventh graders will continue to monitor the elk population along with studying the relationship between the elk and aspen habitat. The fourth/fifth graders will work with a naturalist to study birds through a bird-banding project and study the birds’ habitat, at an aspen stand located near the school. Eighth graders will construct an interpretive trail that connects the school with surrounding areas, including the aspen stand that was part of the elk and bird studies. Students will also design and made signage, and update their website to inform visitors and community members about the elk and bird projects as well as other topics related to the surrounding ecosystem. Consistent records will be kept by the students of what they discover to share with the researchers from MSU with whom they are working. The program links directly to Montana Content and Performance Standards for reading, science, technology and mathematics.

Coordinators: Joan Traylor

Pleasant Valley Elementary – Marion

The goal for Pleasant Valley School’s “Lost Trail Wildlife Refuge Restoration” service-learning project is to improve plant and wildlife habitat at the refuge by returning it to its natural state. The students will learn how they can bring about positive changes and impact their surrounding environment through community service, along with making academic gains in science, writing, speaking and listening. Through a wetlands unit students will learn about and gain an understanding of the usefulness of wetlands. The students will write interview questions and interview residents concerning plants and animals native to the area, after which the interviews will be written up. Students will learn to identify plants, birds, insects and amphibians through classroom instruction and with the help of area biologists after which they will gather baseline data of various animal and plant species in the area. They will conduct water

tests to determine the quality of the water and identify aquatic animals. They will also learn about restoring wetlands and decide on a route for a nature trail which they will help construct.

Coordinator: Kim Mitchell

Chief Joseph Middle School – Bozeman
National Service-Learning Leader School

Chief Joseph Middle School provides service-learning models for dissemination and replication through student produced television programs and videos. Peer mediator packets are being produced. Students in Spanish classes are writing original stories, illustrating them, and then publishing them. They will be delivered to schools in Bariloche, Argentina. After learning about noxious weeds and wildfires, students produced video-taped Public Service Announcements for the Bozeman community.

Coordinator: Muralee McWilliams, Patsy Olmstead